AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Withdrawn) A microorganism belonging to the genus Escherichia and having purine nucleoside-producing ability.

2. (Withdrawn) The microorganism according to claim 1, which has acquired the purine nucleoside-producing ability because of an increase of an activity of an enzyme involved in purine nucleoside biosynthesis in cells of the microorganism.

3. (Withdrawn) The microorganism according to claim 1, which has acquired the purine nucleoside-producing ability because of an increase of an expression amount of a gene for an enzyme involved in purine nucleoside biosynthesis.

4. (Withdrawn) The microorganism according to claim 1, which has acquired the purine nucleoside-producing ability because of deregulation of control of an enzyme involved in purine nucleoside biosynthesis.

5. (Withdrawn) The microorganism according to claim 4, the control of the enzyme involved in the purine nucleoside biosynthesis is desensitized by desensitization of feedback inhibition.

6. (Withdrawn) The microorganism according to claim 3, wherein the enzyme involved in the purine nucleoside biosynthesis is phosphoribosyl pyrophosphate amidotransferase.

7. (Withdrawn) The microorganism according to claim 3, wherein the enzyme involved in the purine nucleoside biosynthesis is phosphoribosyl pyrophosphate synthetase.

8. (Withdrawn) The microorganism according to claim 3, wherein the control of the enzyme involved in the purine nucleoside biosynthesis is derepressed by inactivation of a purine repressor.

9. (Withdrawn) The microorganism according to claim 1, which has acquired the purine nucleoside-producing ability because of blockage of a reaction branching from purine nucleoside biosynthesis and leading to another metabolite.

10. (Withdrawn) The microorganism according to claim 9, wherein the reaction branching from the purine nucleoside biosynthesis and leading to another metabolite is a reaction catalyzed by an enzyme selected from the group consisting of succinyl-adenosine monophosphate synthase, purine nucleoside phosphorylase, adenosine deaminase, inosine-guanosine kinase, guanosine monophosphate reductase, 6-phosphogluconoate deydrase, phophoglucose isomerase, adenine deaminase, and xanthosine phosphorylase.

11. (Withdrawn) The microorganism according to claim 1, which is enhanced in the purine nucleoside-producing ability by weakening of incorporation of a purine nucleoside into cells of the microorganism.

12. (Withdrawn) The microorganism according to claim 11, wherein the incorporation of the purine nucleoside into cells of the microorganism is weakened by blockage of a reaction involved in the incorporation of the purine nucleoside into cells of the microorganism, and the reaction involved in the incorporation of the purine nucleoside into cells of the microorganism is a reaction catalyzed by nucleoside permease.

13. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a purine nucléoside by fermentation comprising culturing a microorganism in a culture medium to produce and accumulate the purine nucleoside in the medium, and collecting the purine nucleoside, wherein the microorganism belongs to the genus *Escherichia* and has purine nucleoside-producing ability arising from inhibition of a reaction branching from purine nucleoside biosynthesis, and leading to another metabolite, in said microorganism, wherein said reaction is catalyzed by an enzyme selected from the group consisting of succinyl-adenosine

monophosphate synthase, purine nucleoside phosphorylase, adenosine deaminase, inosine-guanosine kinase, guanosine monophosphate reductase, 6-phosphogluconoate deydrase, phophoglucose isomerase, adenine deaminase, and xanthosine phosphorylase.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 13, ~~wherein~~ further comprising increasing expression of a gene encoding an enzyme involved in purine nucleoside biosynthesis ~~is increased~~ in said microorganism ~~and~~, wherein said enzyme involved in purine nucleoside biosynthesis is a phosphoribosyl pyrophosphate amidotransferase or a phosphoribosyl pyrophosphate ~~synthase~~ synthetase.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 13, ~~wherein~~ further comprising deregulating control of an enzyme involved in purine nucleoside biosynthesis ~~is deregulated~~ in said microorganism ~~and~~, wherein said enzyme involved in purine nucleoside biosynthesis is a phosphoribosyl pyrophosphate amidotransferase or a phosphoribosyl pyrophosphate ~~synthase~~ synthetase.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein ~~the~~ control of ~~the~~ said enzyme involved in the purine nucleoside biosynthesis is desensitized by desensitization of feedback inhibition.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the enzyme involved in the purine nucleoside biosynthesis is phosphoribosyl pyrophosphate amidotransferase.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the enzyme involved in the purine nucleoside biosynthesis is phosphoribosyl pyrophosphate amidotransferase.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein the enzyme involved in the purine nucleoside biosynthesis is phosphoribosyl pyrophosphate amidotransferase.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the enzyme involved in the purine nucleoside biosynthesis is phosphoribosyl pyrophosphate synthetase.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the enzyme involved in the purine nucleoside biosynthesis is phosphoribosyl pyrophosphate synthetase.

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein ~~the~~ control of ~~the~~ said enzyme involved in the purine nucleoside biosynthesis is derepressed by inactivation of a purine repressor encoded by the *purR* gene from *Escherichia coli.*

23. – 24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 13, ~~wherein~~ further comprising inhibiting incorporation of a purine nucleoside into said microorganism ~~is inhibited~~ by blockage of a reaction catalyzed by nucleoside permease.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the enzyme is phosphoglucose isomerase.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 23, 24, and 26 were previously cancelled.

Claims 14-16, 22, and 25 have been amended.

The amendment of Claims 14-16, 22, and 25 are supported by the corresponding claims as previously presented and in originally filed Claims 1-12.

No new matter is believed to have been entered by these amendments.